

James Hayes
SHERIFF

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June 6, 2002

RECEIVED

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

AUG 30 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band WT Docket No.
02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing on behalf of the Etowah County Sheriffs Department to set forth our support of Southern LINC in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. Etowah County Sheriffs Department provides public assistance and emergency services in Etowah County. In providing these services, we utilize Southern LINC's digital wireless communications network.

Our understanding is that in the above-referenced proceeding, the Commission is reviewing the causes of, and possible solutions for, interference to public safety entities in the 800 MHz band. Southern's network operates in the 800MHz band, and it is concerned that the Commission might realign the band such that its spectrum holdings, and thus its network, could be compromised. To avoid that, Southern has proposed a plan that would resolve interference to public safety entities but would not compromise Southern's system (or any other MHz users' systems).

Etowah County Sheriffs Office understands and strongly supports the communications needs of public safety entities that have their own private wireless communications systems in the 800 MHz band. We understand the desire of such entities to avoid harmful interference to their systems. The Federal Communications Commission should, to the extent necessary, take steps to alleviate such interference.

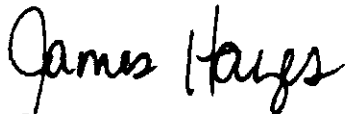
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For its part, Etowah County Sheriffs Department utilizes Southern LINC for wireless communications. Unlike most other commercial providers, Southern LINC provides combined dispatch and interconnected service in the same handset, a feature that Etowah County Sheriffs Department considers highly important. Also important is that Southern LINC's network comprehensively covers our jurisdiction and that its service is highly reliable and of high quality. Etowah County Sheriffs Department relies on Southern Linc for important public safety communications. We could not tolerate its service being shut-off, interrupted, or otherwise compromised.

Etowah County Sheriffs Department has not studied all the particular interference resolution proposals that have been submitted to the Commission and does not have an opinion as to which plan the Commission should adopt. However, Etowah County Sheriffs Department strongly supports the continued vitality of Southern LINC, and for that reason we urge the Commission not to adopt a plan that would compromise Southern LINC's network. Southern LINC is a strong supporter and ally of the public safety community, and its ability to continue to provide wireless communications to public safety entities must not be jeopardized.

Thank you for considering our position on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Hayes".

James Hayes
Etowah County Sheriff